

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 484 without my signature.

I support the use of as much recycled material as possible in transportation projects and share the Legislature's intent to encourage local governments to use recycled materials in their projects. However, I believe the requirements in this bill are duplicative of current reporting requirements and would not be a prudent use of scarce transportation funds. Since 2006, the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has utilized a contract specification that requires every contractor to report on how much asphalt, concrete, and other materials are diverted from or disposed in landfills. Caltrans will report in April 2008 on the diversion rate from its 2007 projects. As such, the report mandated by this bill is premature.

I believe it would be wasteful and unnecessary to require Caltrans to establish a duplicative system to track the disposal of concrete. These funds would be better utilized by investing in the building of transportation infrastructure.

I am instructing the appropriate agencies in my Administration to review the results of the 2007 Caltrans diversion program and recommend a future course of action based on that report.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger